

HHC, 312th MI

Headhunter Newsletter

October 5, 2004

Commander and 1SG Notes

October is finally here and we're one month closer to this year being over with. I jinxed us a little bit last month when I mentioned that it was getting a little cooler. I keep waiting for the weather to get a little cooler but we're still up near 110 degrees on most days. At least it's a little bit cooler in the mornings & evenings but still roasting us during the day. We have some visitors arriving this week that we are all very excited to see. The Battalion Cdr and Command Sergeant Major for the unit out of the 3rd Infantry Division that is replacing us here in scenic Baghdad. Speaking for myself, and I think I can safely speak for all of us over here...it's hard not to get a little bit excited about handing over the mission to our replacements. Having said that, there is still some work for us to do here. A year ago, the Commanding General told all of us Company Commanders that the war in Iraq would be won or lost while the 1st Cavalry Division was here. He was right. The Iraqi elections are approaching quickly. We are here at a critical time in the history of a free Iraq. No matter your opinion on whether we should have gone to war here or not, a stable & free Iraq can only bring good to this very volatile region of the world which in turn is great news for the entire free world. Everyone here in the HHC family is doing exceptional work

towards the fulfillment of our mission. As usual, we're going a thousand miles an hour here in about three hundred different directions. We have had some bad luck with the construction for the ACE Soldiers.

Construction is just about done with the new building; however, there are a few kinks to work out before the ACE is able to move in. We were able to get our hands on a cake to celebrate the move...it just happened to be a few days early. We've reconfigured the two TUAV Platoons a little bit. We have now organized a forward Platoon operating here in Baghdad as well as a launch and recovery Platoon up north in Taji. Each Platoon has members of the old B and C Platoons. DON'T change your mail address to these Soldiers...keep it coming the way it always has and we'll be sure to get it to your Soldier as quickly as we can no matter where they are in the Baghdad area...as the First Sergeant says.... "you call..we haul!"

The two sections most looking forward to any change (for the cooler) in our local climate are the Maintenance, and Communications and Electronics Sections. These Soldiers have worked through the incredible temperatures of the summer. They fix EVERYTHING here and there isn't any mission here we could accomplish without their expertise. When I say everything, I really mean

everything. There was SSG Gaston fixing the throttle linkage on my very own truck, in the middle of Baghdad, with a piece of Big Red Bubblegum...and then there's SSG Randall who in addition to his work related repair, has taken time to fix any number of personal electronic "gadgets" our Soldiers have brought or bought over here.

On a lighter note...over the course of the last few weeks, and the month to come, the Soldiers, NCOs and Officers in both the TOC and the ALOC have arranged for the Command Sergeant Major and the Field Grade Officers to take their environmental leave...so unsaddled with that burden, we will probably have the war won in a month or two. We all hope they have a wonderful break! REMEMBER TO VOTE! Hope everyone has a safe and Happy Halloween!

CPT Dan Bishop 1SG Torres
"Headhunter 6" "Headhunter 9"

Miscellaneous INFORMATION

From One Heart to Another:
Emergency blood drive saves soldier's life. Sept. 23, 2004
By Spc. Jan Critchfield, 122nd Mobile Public Affairs Det

BAGHDAD, Iraq As surgeons of the 31st Combat Army Surgical Hospital concentrated on the 1st Cavalry Division Soldier spread on the operating table before them September 20, midnight approached and time was running out.

Time was not measured on a clock that night; it was measured by the pints of blood that flowed onto the operating room floor as the surgeons struggled to undo the destruction caused by the round of an insurgent AK-47. "We have a Soldier who was shot in the abdomen", Maj. Nancy Parson, 31st CASH night shift nursing supervisor said, "He lost a lot of blood, greater than 2000 cc's."

When the Fort Bliss, Texas-based CASH's surgeons were done stabilizing the critically wounded Soldier, it became apparent that more blood would be needed if the Soldier was to make it through the night. He required several transfusions," Parson said. "We used the entire stockpile [of blood] here at the CASH, then we initiated a whole blood drive. Calls requesting volunteers were made to several other U.S. Army units in the 1st Cavalry Division.

The turnout was unprecedented Humvees, Bradley Fighting Vehicles, and other vehicles lined the street outside the CASH, while busses and other on-hand vehicles ferried more potential donors to the doorstep of the CASH through the night. This is the largest turnout of volunteers to donate blood that we've ever had," Parson said. By one o'clock in the morning, nearly 150 Soldiers of the needed blood type, most pulling an all-nighter after finishing a day's work, lined the hall outside the donation room. It moves me to see these Soldiers come out to help someone they don't even know, and that [when] they feel that another Soldier is in trouble,

they come willing, no questions asked," Parson said. We haven't quite needed this much blood before in the past, maybe five units or two units [of blood] at the most," she said. "But this Soldier was a special case, and it was amazing to see how many people came out at one o'clock in the morning."

C Company, 312th MI BN.

returned to Fort Hood September 28th. They were the first Company in our Battalion to deploy and we are so excited to see them here at home!

Thanks to those who came out to help spruce up the Charlie Barracks...beds were made and freshened, some personal toiletries deposited in each space, and yellow ribbons now adorn each room and balcony.

USPS

The deadline for mailing from the states is 5 November, if you are planning to mail Christmas gifts.

FAMILY SGLI

All Active Duty soldiers who currently have SGLI coverage on themselves are eligible for the Family SGLI coverage to include dual military couples. Family SGLI covers spouses up to \$100,000, cost is based on age. Children are covered for \$10,000 at no cost.

Service members can enroll dependents in Family SGLI at their servicing PSB after ensuring their dependents have been updated at the ID Cards Center located in the Soldier Service Center. Dual Military members must also process updates at the ID Cards Center prior to visiting their PSB. Dual military members are

encouraged to ensure that they were properly disenrolled if coverage was declined.

If there are any questions or for further information please contact your S1 or local Personnel Services Battalion

Advocate for a School Child

Given the new start of the school year I thought you might find some use for these sites.

Wright's Law: Advocating for Your Child - Getting Started
www.wrightslaw.com/advoc/articles/advocacy.intro.htm

How Parents Can Be Advocates for Their Children with Learning Disabilities
www.nasponline.org/publications/cq283disabilities.htm

Advocating for Your Child's Special Education Needs
www.parentsource.com/1.03.article.html

Advocating for Your Child's Education
www.thegao.org/advocatindex.htm

Fact Sheet-Assertiveness Is...Assertiveness Is Not
www.pinofpa.org/resources/fact-14.html

More good info on Education.
www.nga.org
www.militarystudent.org
www.esu3.org/web/misa.html
www.sso.org/nafis
www.stompproject.org

Military Spouses Authorized to Enter Pre-Boarding/Secure Areas of the Airport Via "Well Wishers Pass"

The Killeen-Fort Hood Regional Airport Director of

Transportation Security Administration announced a change in policy that will authorize military spouses entrance into secure areas of the airport to meet/farewell their deploying military spouses. Depending on the number of passengers in the secure area, entry of other family members; e.g., children, parents, grandparents, brothers, and sisters may not be authorized. The Dallas/Fort Worth and Bergstrom/Austin International Airports have adopted the same procedures. Spouses should contact airport information at other airport locations to confirm their participation. Procedures have been implemented as follows:

1. Spouse should check-in with the military member's airline.
 2. Spouse should show a picture ID, state that they are a military spouse and ask for a "Well Wishers Pass".
 3. Airline personnel will check to make sure that the person is not on the no-fly list and issue the "Well Wishers Pass".
 4. Spouse should then show the "Well Wishers Pass" to the screener at the passenger screening check-point for entry into the secure area.
- For additional information please contact the following:

Dallas/Fort Worth
International Airport, 972-574-8182

Austin/Bergstrom
International Airport, 512-851-6336 or 512-851-6346

Killeen/Fort Hood Regional
Airport, 254-501-8700

Fort Hood Family
Assistance Center, Army

Community Service; 254-288-7570 or toll free; 866-836-2751

ACS

Children of Deployed Soldiers Support Group, meets monthly to increase the knowledge of children/youth about the deployment process using age appropriate learning task and activities. Call 286-6774 for dates, times, and topics.

Spouses of Deployed Soldiers Support Group meets on the first Tuesday and third Tuesday of each month at the Lane Volunteer Center, Building 16005. The support group offers a forum where family members can share their experiences and expectations. Childcare is free, on a limited basis. For more information please call Martin Bonner at 288-2863 or 288-5155.

A note from a concerned soldier and MG Chiarelli

The Reunion and Integration Training (RIT) that follows redeployment is a result of lessons learned from past deployment events across the Army. The timeline put forward by the 1st CAV Division (3-day pass, not counting day of arrival, 10 half days of RIT and then 30 days block leave) will be followed by all returning units. Reunion can be challenging...no one lives through a year of deployment unchanged. The Division's goal is to see us all through this challenging time safely, helping us identify potential problems before they become issues. But here's the deal...we can only do that if we're together.

I would ask your patience with the RIT timeline when its your turn AND your participation so that we come away from this deployment as healthy as when we went into it. We're being offered tools and resources to ease our transition back to garrison operations and family life. Each of you is dear to me because of the sacrifices you've made in the name of duty...whether serving a year in Iraq or surviving a year of separation. Let's see this through to the end and finish on a high note!!

MG Chiarelli,
Sir, I apologize for emailing you directly, as I know you are quite busy. But I am a soldier in B/1-9 Cav and I was there when you spoke with us. You believed in us and what we have done over here and it really meant a lot to us soldiers. Thank you for that. As you know, we are going home soon and you spoke of a "hero's welcome". I am worried that isn't going to be the case for a lot of us.

We are currently being told we will get a 3-day pass when we return, but will have to go back to work on Saturday to start RIT. I have many friends in 4ID who said they were given a 4-day pass and that if it ran into a weekend, they got that too. I believe in the Army and I believe that you should never complain unless you have a solution. I have a solution, I just pray you will hear me out.

My family isn't financially stable enough to come during the week to see me. They had planned on coming down for the

weekend though, but now it looks like I won't be able to stay in Austin with them like I planned. In addition, some soldiers planned on taking pass in places such as Dallas. To make them come back for barely a half day is disappointing. The first days of RIT are mostly made up of commander's time anyways. What's more, if we start RIT on Monday (Oct 3), we will still be able to finish before block leave. There is really no reason why myself and the rest of my company mates shouldn't be able to have the weekend off. I hope others feel we have earned it.

Thank you for your patience in reading this email. I know it may not be entirely appropriate, but I was always taught that to get things done you sometimes have to put yourself out there. Take care and stay safe.

Bravo 1-9 Soldier ... proud to have served, but excited to go home to his family

Joe,
Your recommendation will no doubt be a popular one with many if not all who are redeploying and our plan may seem an absolute inconvenience. I know you and your family are looking forward to well-deserved time together without any unit or duty requirements. I expect that others, soldiers and leaders alike, will have similar concerns and I owe you and them a clearer explanation of our plan.

The transition period following our arrival at Fort Hood is extremely important. You and

your fellow soldiers have responded to the call to duty in an exemplary manner. I have demanded levels of excellence from you and them to which all have risen and surpassed. I have also placed a tremendous physical and mental stress on you and them and on their families. It is critical that we all ensure that ALL soldiers and families are provided a means for personal reconstitution, family reunion/reintegration, and reestablishment of personal readiness. My mission is to bring every soldier safely home and make sure that every soldier and family has the best chance for a safe transition to peacetime operations. The plan is generous in time available for unit time, individual time, and family time--hence the three-day pass (not including the day you actually arrive), the 10 day half-day schedule, followed by block leave. If you can't get together with family over the three day pass period, you'll have 30 days to do just that when you go on block leave immediately following the ten half-days of RIT. The demand for resources supporting our redeployment require all to comply with a seven day plan. All will meet the same challenge, duty straight through weekends, and potentially through holidays or school breaks.

The bottom line is, I need your help and your families help to accomplish the mission of bringing soldiers, families, and communities safely together. In Baghdad you watched out for the soldiers with whom you served. If their head wasn't in the game or something seemed

wrong, you took care of them and got them the help they needed--just like they would for you. Leaders saw you on patrol, in the dining facility, at work every day. Sometimes all day and all night. When we get back to Fort Hood, our Baghdad dangers will be mostly behind us. I need you to help me keep an eye on your fellow soldiers. I want my leaders to keep an eye on our soldiers. I need family and community help to do the same thing--they and we don't need to be highly trained professionals to recognize when someone needs help. It would be a shame to make it through a year of combat only to let our guard down too soon and miss an opportunity to lo! ok out for each other after coming home. I hope that my explanation is helpful. I need you and we need to be One Team a little longer. Your fellow Cav Troopers deserve our extra efforts to bring the whole force completely and safely home.

First Team!
MG Pete Chiarelli

Link to Fort Hood Sentinel on line.

<http://militarynews.com/sentinel/>

The Sep 23, 2004, edition (page 4A, has an article sent by Lt. Gen. Metz about staying connected and informed and discusses some of the activities and milestones in Iraq.

NEWSLETTER

Have something to add to the newsletter? Please contact me by October 25th.

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